

REMARKS

Claims 26-36 are pending in this application. Claim 26 is independent.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 28-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Office Action at page 5, section 9. However, as discussed below, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Claims 26-27, 30-32 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,416,685 ("Zhang"). In addition, Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zhang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,217,416 ("Kaufman"). Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Zhang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,689,692 ("Grover").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because Zhang is not prior art to the above-identified application. Zhang was filed on April 11, 2000. In contrast, the above-identified application is entitled to the priority of JP2000-087015 of March 27, 2000. To perfect Applicants' claim to priority under 37 C.F.R. 1.55(a)(4), attached is an English-language translation of the JP2000-087015 priority document, along with a translator's certification. Because Zhang was filed after Applicants' priority date, Zhang is not prior art to the above-identified application. Thus, the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

Claim 26 is objected to because assertedly "(meth)acrylamide" should be replaced with --methacrylamide"--. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection because "(meth)acrylamide" is proper terminology. See, e.g., the attached U.S. Patent No. 6,821,556 (claims and column 4, lines 23-25) and U.S. Patent No. 6,822,011 (claims and column 4, line 1). Because "(meth)acrylamide" is proper terminology, the objection to Claim 26 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attached:

English-language translation of the JP2000-087015 priority document and
translator's certification

U.S. Patent No. 6,822,011

U.S. Patent No. 6,821,556

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22850

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